



We **believe**
that every child
deserves
to experience
the **magic** of
discovery
and the **joy**
of learning
in the **natural**
world.



Transforming Children's Lives



A Message from Tracey Weiss EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS has been transforming children's lives for almost 35 years. Initially a summer camp, the program quickly evolved into a dynamic environmental education program that has touched the lives of well over 200,000 students.

With the changing of the seasons and the passing of time we see the delicate balance within our natural communities evolve; the same can be said for a student's experience with Exploring New Horizons. For many, it is their first experience with nature. A week of outdoor school not only provides the opportunity to see the concepts that have been introduced within the classroom up close and in action, but we get to see how the experience transforms the whole child and his or her relationship to the larger environmental community.

Each week, students get a hands-on understanding of modern tools, concepts and instruments that scientists use to participate in such activities as restoring native plant species or monitoring the migratory animals that call this area home. As the students immerse themselves in the diversity of the world around them, they also have the opportunity to develop the inter-personal relationships with their classmates that can be so easily overlooked in our technology fueled day-to-day lives.

The students who come to Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools benefit from a whole spectrum of social, emotional, and educational skills and experiences that further develops their pathway to becoming environmental stewards and engaged citizens of our natural world.

I have never been prouder of our community. Our board, naturalists and students all contribute the energy, passion and enthusiasm that help us to create a sustainable program that inspires a love of learning and a community that fosters connection to the natural world, and to each other.



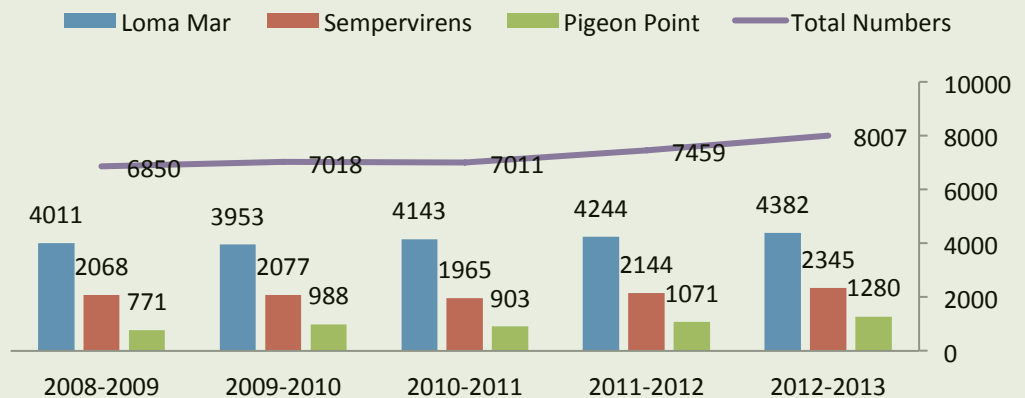
EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS

provides exceptional outdoor residential education to K-8 students at three unique locations through a rich and relevant curriculum tied to state and national education standards. Serving over 8,000 students from 95 schools annually from the SF Bay area and the Central Coast, Exploring New Horizons offers customized programs to both large and small groups at our three campuses: Pigeon Point, Loma Mar, and Sempervirens.

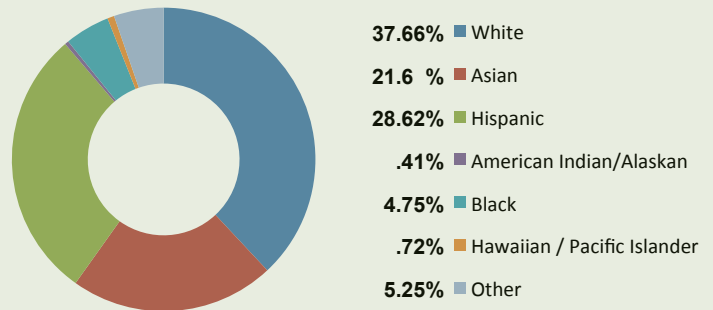
OUR PROMISE

Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools allows children to safely explore and learn about the natural world through relevant and fun outdoor educational experiences. This life-changing opportunity instills a deep connection with nature and the joy of learning.

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS STUDENT NUMBERS



Student Demographic Average



Empowerment

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS has provided hands-on environmental education to over 150,000 5th and 6th grade youth for the past 35 years. For many of these students, our outdoor experiences are the only exposure they've had to the natural environment. It is this very exposure that has been shown to increase youth awareness of the natural world, providing a strong incentive for them to play an active role in protecting it.

Programs like ours are important for many reasons, but their effects reach far beyond the tide pools and redwood forests. As research has found, the state standardized test scores of children who participate in outdoor environmental education activities typically increase by 27%. This data also shows that children improve their conflict resolution and problem solving skills, increase their self-esteem and ignite a new motivation to learn.

To measure the impact of the Exploring New Horizon Outdoor School's programs on the lives of our participants, we received grant funding from the Dean Witter Foundation that allowed us to hire an evaluation consultant who helped developed a qualitative pre- and post evaluation tool.



OUR PROGRAMS

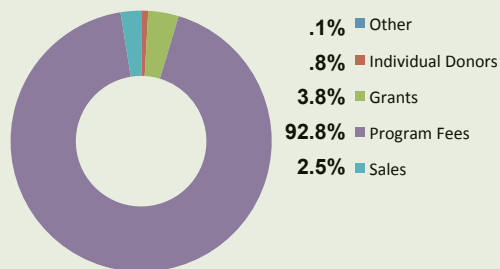
Our enthusiastic and knowledgeable naturalists introduce children to the transformative experience of learning from nature. Our extensive scholarship program allows over 1000 underserved children the opportunity to learn and grow in the rich, unplugged environments of the central coast. By encouraging and promoting respect for themselves and the world around them, we inspire a new generation of young stewards that can appreciate and care for the natural world.

There is no greater teacher than the land and people are at their best when they find this connection. The more we feel connected to people or a place the better we will take care of them.

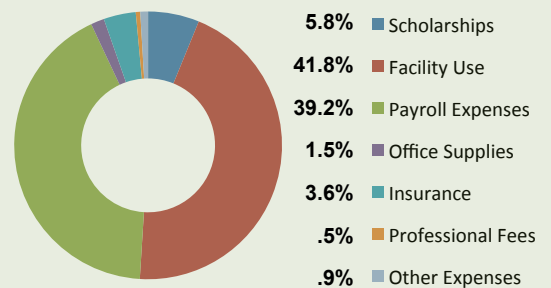
Joshua "Bobcat" Stacy

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS INCOME AND EXPENSES JULY 2012 THROUGH JUNE 2013

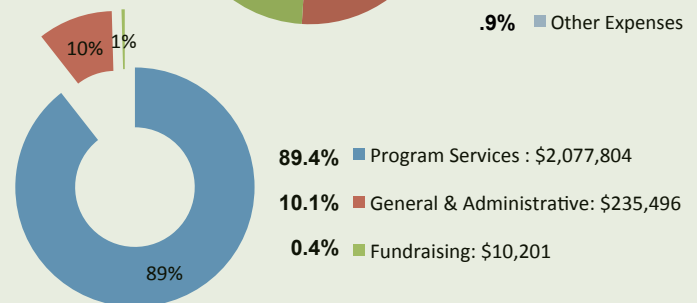
Income Distribution 2012-13



Expense Distribution 2012-13



Expense Breakdown



Our survey was designed to capture two major areas of data: a) student knowledge surrounding the natural world and b) shifts in student attitude around connection and responsibility to the natural world.

Roughly 1200 students (approximately 15% of the total 2012-13 student attendance) were randomly selected to participate in the survey. We found that students experienced on average a 7.4% increase in their knowledge regarding environmental and conservation knowledge. Anecdotally, our program naturalists reported that they noticed an increased interest among their students in science, pride and stewardship, confidence in nature, a sense of place and understanding of natural settings, improved group and social skills, increased writing and music skills, as well as increased fluency in English for ELL students and confidence in public speaking.

Most significantly for the future of environmental stewardship, our students responded having gained a sense of personal connection and responsibility towards the natural world. As a result, after participating in Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools programs, students feel more likely to protect the environment and share conservation strategies with others.

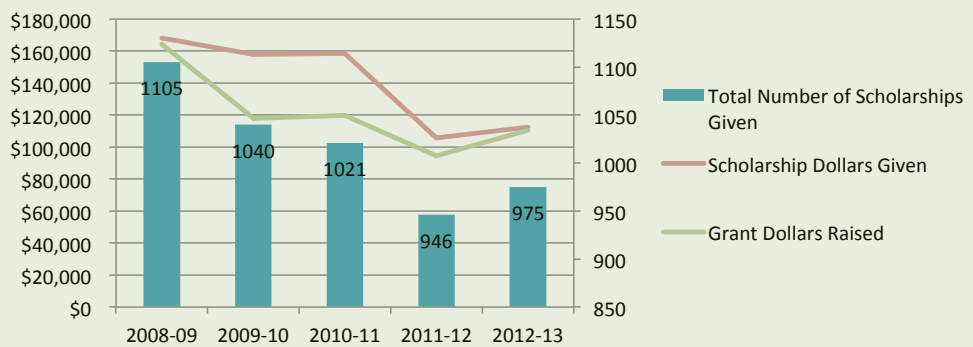
We've long felt confident that our programs benefit youth and now we have the numbers that prove our success. Our study is just one part of our ongoing strategy to assess, innovate and improve our service delivery to ensure that we continue to inspire, empower and transform children's lives through outdoor education.



OUR EXPERIENCE

Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools is committed to educating and empowering children to make thoughtful, conscious, and sustainable choices for themselves and the environment. By providing children rich educational opportunities to safely explore the natural, un-plugged world, our naturalists foster a sense of adventure and love of learning while encouraging children to creatively envision and work together towards a positive future.

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS SCHOLARSHIP TRENDS



Year	Total Number of Scholarships Given	Scholarship Dollars Given	Grant Dollars Raised
2008-09	1105	\$168,034	\$164,268
2009-10	1040	\$157,985	\$118,050
2010-11	1021	\$158,627	\$119,784
2011-12	946	\$105,701	\$94,400
2012-13	975	\$112,577	\$110,511

When I walk in the forest I feel like I have never felt before. You feel free and you learn how to show your true self.

5th grade student from Rosa Parks Elementary School

Inspiration

One of the guiding principles of **EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS** is that environmental education should be affordable and accessible to all students. The economic disparity between varying schools continues to grow and become more pronounced with each passing year. Ten years ago the Board of Directors at Exploring New Horizons made the bold decision to find a way to provide financial support to those schools and communities in need by founding the Environmental Education for Underserved Students (EEUS) scholarship program. Each year 10-15% of the students that attend our programs receive this scholarship.

Our goal is to ensure that no school or student is left behind due to financial reasons. A great example of this effort is our partnership with the Salinas Valley. In the past the Monterey County Office of Education provided outdoor education for students throughout the county, but in the early 1990s the county was forced to close its program due to budget cuts. Many of the schools and districts that serve wealthier communities, such as Monterey and Carmel, began sending their students to independent outdoor education programs. However, the schools that serve lower income communities were not able to afford these programs. In partnership with a number of federal and private foundations we have been able to create a long-standing partnership with over nine elementary schools serving over 500 students each year. The awe and joy that these students experience in one week with us is indescribable.



Exploring
New Horizons
Outdoor Schools
is **grateful**
for the continued
generosity of our
loyal donors
and **supporters**.

Gifting it Forward to a New Generation of Children

GRANT PARTNERS

Bear Gulch Foundation
Bothin Foundation
Clif Bar Foundation
Harden Foundation
Leshar Foundation

Monterey Bay Master Gardeners
Monterey Peninsula Foundation
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
North Pleasanton Rotary

REDWOOD GROVE (\$1,000+)

Andrew Cerri
Craig Peters and Maureen DeBoer
Joanne Greenbaum
Robert Christiansen
Lisa Crossett
Holly Nelson

COASTAL OAK (\$501 - \$999)

Brett Arata
Geoff Garinger
Carrie Gordon Doring
Dan Irelan
Rachel Shapiro

REDTAIL HAWK (\$101 - \$500)

Rick Crossett
Lisa Duncan
Steven Duquette
Lynda Maddox
Brian Massey
Vaughn & Carole McKim
Annabelle Reber
Buzz and Linda Valente
Mitchell Yee

MONARCH BUTTERFLY (\$51 - \$100)

Sid Greenbaum
George Kohn
Deborah Kremins
Eric Lahtinen
George and Mary Kay Reber
Lynne Shapiro
Shawnee Spitler
Sidney Tynan
Christopher Winship

BANANA SLUG (\$50)

Jennifer Agee
Jesse Austell
Tracy Barnett
Jennifer and Robert Castelluccio
Beverly Cherner
Sarah Clayton
Harriet Crossett
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Kathy Echols
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Inspiring, empowering, and transforming children's lives through outdoor education.

Leadership Keeps our Vision Alive

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Inspiring, Empowering, and Transforming Lives

A Message from Rachel Shapiro BOARD PRESIDENT



We live in a time of extraordinary change and challenge. The opportunity, and obligation, to educate our youth in all facets of modern life is an exhilarating but formidable task. Educating our youth to become responsible stewards of our environment is critical to the future protection of our planet.

At **EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS**, our immersive environmental programs play an important part in reaching this goal.

We are proud to showcase the tremendous progress Exploring New Horizons has made in our very first annual report. Over the past year we embarked on a major marketing and re-branding effort, making our message and brand more attractive and cohesive. We have begun development on an exciting new educational program called MOSS (Meaningful Outdoor Science and Stewardship), that links classroom education and community building directly with student participation in Exploring New Horizons programs. We are thrilled to launch this program next year, and look forward to reporting on its success. Our staff has received excellent training on new trends in environmental education, making our work with students even more effective and engaging. We have also made great strides in reaching more students with our programs. Though we have faced challenges in this tough economic climate to maintain our scholarship dollars, we continue to explore new ideas to fundraise.

Our grants and fundraising dollars go directly to support our scholarship program, which provides our critical programs to under privileged children who would otherwise never experience the natural world as curious explorers, budding scientists and thoughtful stewards. We owe the results outlined in this report to our generous individual donors and to the foundations that believe in our mission. You are helping to change lives and we are so grateful for your continued support.

Thank you from **EVERYONE** at Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools!

exploringnewhorizons.org